

# **SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**



**Contact: Kathryn Richardson  
Office: (803) 896-7013**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 28, 2005**

### **ORANGEBURG PUBLIC SAFETY LIEUTENANT ARRESTED**

**James F. Thorpe** was arrested Wednesday, December 28, 2005, and charged with **Misconduct in Office** in connection with his employment as a Lieutenant with the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety.

**Thorpe**, 48, of 4866 Misty Lane, Orangeburg, S.C., was arrested at approximately 2:00 p.m. and booked at the Orangeburg County Detention Center.

The investigation was conducted by SLED at the request of the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety. The case will be prosecuted by the First Circuit Solicitor's Office.

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\*Warrant Attached.

ARREST WARRANT

H- 936706

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of  
ORANGEBURG COUNTY

THE STATE 31050089 (SLED)  
against

JAMES F. (JR) THORPE

Address: 4666 MISTY PINE LANE

ORANGEBURG SC 29115

Phone: SS

Ser#: Race: H Height: Weight:

DL State: DL#:

DOB: 3/23/57 Agency ORI#:

Prosecuting Agency/SS:

Prosecuting Officer: S/A MICHELE CHINA

Offense: MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE

Offense Code: 0819

Code/Ordinance Sec: 0819

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the  
☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

is to be arrested and brought before me to be  
dealt with according to law.

Signature of Judge (L.S.)

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to  
defendant JAMES F. (JR) THORPE

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:  
ORANGEBURG MAGISTRATES 1 DAVIS  
P.O. BOX 9200  
ORANGEBURG SC 29116

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of  
ORANGEBURG COUNTY

Personally appeared before me the affiant S/A MICHELE CHINA who  
being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant JAMES F. (JR) THORPE  
did within this county and state on 11/01/02 violate the criminal laws of the  
State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of ORANGEBURG COUNTY )  
in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit  
the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

"SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT"

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of  
ORANGEBURG COUNTY

Affiant's Address: 5435 FAIR STREET, SUITE A

N. CHARLESTON SC

Affiant's Telephone: 843 569-7593

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that  
on 11/01/02 defendant JAMES F. (JR) THORPE  
did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of  
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of ORANGEBURG COUNTY ) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said  
defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to  
the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

Sworn to and subscribed before me

12/28/05

Signature of Issuing Judge

Judge Order 721

Judge's Address: P.O. BOX 3000

ORANGEBURG SC 29115

Judge's Telephone: 803 533-5643

Issuing Court

☒ Magistrate

☐ Municipal

☐ Circuit

ORIGINAL

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**AFFIDAVIT**

**COUNTY OF ORANGEBURG  
CITY OF ORANGEBURG**

**OCA# 31050089**

Personally appeared before me, a magistrate of this County, one Michele D. China, Special Agent, SC State Law Enforcement Division who first being duly sworn, deposes and says that

**James F. Thorpe, Jr.**

**White Male, DOB: 3-3-57, SSN: [REDACTED], LKA: 4866 Misty Pine Lane, Orangeburg, SC**

did within this County and State between **November 1, 2002** and **December 31, 2002**  
violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

**DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE  
MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE  
Common Law**

The affiant states there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based on the following facts:

That between November 1, 2002, and December 31, 2002, while employed as a Police Officer at the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety, located in the City of Orangeburg, County of Orangeburg, State of South Carolina, the aforesaid, one James F. Thorpe, a public official holding a position of public trust and having a duty of accountability to the people of the State of South Carolina imposed by the common law and statutory laws upon public officials and assumed by the defendant as a matter of law upon his oath, did knowingly, willfully, and corruptly violate the laws of the State of South Carolina and the policies of the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety by utilizing his position of public trust while on duty as a Lieutenant assigned to the Patrol Division of the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety. The defendant while patrolling the parking lot of a local bar did sexually fondle a 23 year old female without her consent. The facts to establish the aforesaid that while the defendant was on duty and patrolling the parking lot of "The Pub" located at 1359 St. Paul Street, in the City of Orangeburg did have the female victim in his patrol car and did drive away from the parking lot with the victim in his patrol car to different secluded areas within the City of Orangeburg whereby the defendant did tell the victim to engage in various sexual activities with the defendant as repayment for the defendant using his influence as a law enforcement officer to assist the victim with a past traffic citation. The victim stated the defendant after a period of time returned the victim to her car located in the parking lot of The Pub after the victim stated she told the defendant on several occasions she wanted to be returned to her car. Special Agent Michele D. China, SC State Law Enforcement Division conducted an investigation to prove the same. All this being against the against the peace and dignity of the State of South Carolina.

Pg. 2 James F. Thorpe affidavit 31050089

Sworn to and Subscribed before me  
this 28 day of December, 2005.

James F. Thorpe - SLED  
(AFFIANT)

Address: 6435 Fain Street, Ste., A  
North Charleston, SC

Phone: 843-569-7593

Betty L. Gray  
Signature of Judge